

Fabulous '50s Bring Six Times the Students of a Decade Ago

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The "Fabulous Fifties" lived up to their name in Torrance schools, which today have six times as many students as they had in 1950.

During the decade, the number of students rose from 4000 to more than 25,000 and the number of schools from four to 31 (with another eight schools in various stages of construction or planning).

During the same period, Torrance schools gained recognition in national magazines and on TV—for the district's "Little Red

Schoolhouse" (multigrade) and "Supermarket of Knowledge" (educational material building).

"Despite all the building problems we had during the past few years, our primary aim is developing a sound educational program for all our students," declared School Superintendent J. H. Hull, who has headed the Torrance district since it was formed in 1947. "We are striving for individualization of instruction—to help each student do the best work of which he is capable."

Torrance has had greater problems in school building than many of its neighbors. Here 25% of the residents are of school age, compared with 16% in Burbank, 14% in Inglewood and 8% in Santa Monica.

Over the past 10 years, voters have authorized more than \$34,000,000 in school bonds for construction of new facilities. When the decade opened, only Fern, Perry, Torrance Elementary and Torrance High schools served the community. At that time, Waleria School was at another location, and the high school housed seventh and eighth grades also.

In the meantime, 27 new schools have been built, but the builders have had a difficult time keeping ahead of the stork and moving vans. Double sessions reached their high point—48%—in 1954, but have steadily declined until they amount to only about 12% today. The district now has 784 classrooms in use.

As January opened, 28 separate construction projects, including six new schools, additions to 21 others, and rehabilitation of Fern School, were in various stages of construction or planning. Three new schools are slated to open within the next six months.

Over the 10-year period, the number of high school graduates grew from 144 to more than 2200. Last year, Torrance graduates won some \$50,000 worth of scholarships.

The district won nationwide attention for its "Little Red Schoolhouse" program which started at Waleria School in 1955. The program entails placing youngsters from three grades in one classroom. It since has spread to other schools and to other school districts.

The district's educational materials building also was featured on TV and in national magazines. Instead of separate libraries at each elementary school, the district has one central library. This enables the schools to provide a greater variety of books which are used more frequently.

On a high school level, the district moved ahead with plans for improving its curriculum.

For the academically talented, the decade brought introduction of a seven-period day, summer school sessions in which eighth graders received high school credit, allowing selected top students to attend El Camino, opening high school libraries at night, offering Russian language courses, and development of special research courses.

Parents and students meet college officials and discuss possible programs as the district holds educational advisement nights district-wide.

The high schools also held career conferences, in which people from various professions meet students to discuss advantages and disadvantages of various types of work.

On an elementary level, individualization of instruction was sought. Science Research Associates reading kits were introduced, as well as other devices to help each student move ahead as quickly as possible.

In 1959, the district started pilot studies in television for instruction in certain subjects. Results of this program are not yet determined.

Casimir School is the scene of a pilot study in the teaching of foreign language—Spanish—to elementary students on a planned, carefully studied basis. The high schools and Casimir saw the introduction of the language laboratories, in which tape recorders and records are used extensively to help children learn.

Science carts are also being used in elementary classrooms, to enable better science instruction on an earlier level than has been customary.

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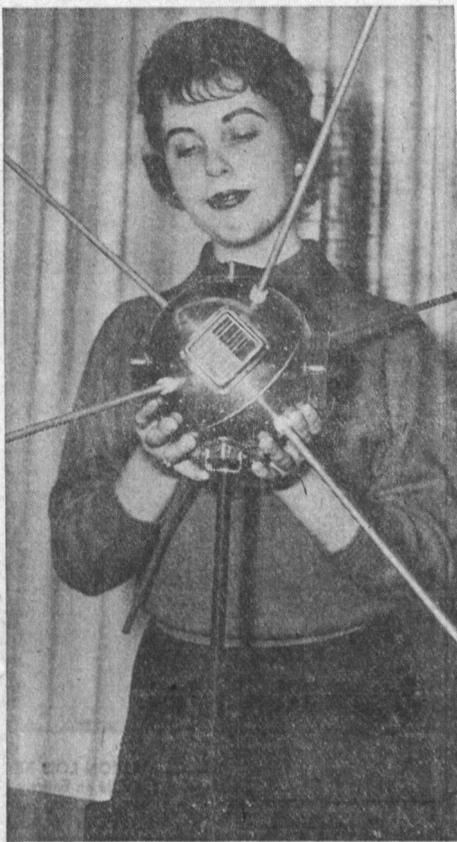
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SPACE AGE—Feature of North High science fair last year was Vanguard satellite, shown here by Rosalie Murray. Many scientific exhibits were taken to the school, placed on view.

"We don't know exactly what the child of 2000 will need in the way of an education," declared Hull. "The world is changing so rapidly that we can't foresee all possible new occupations. Ten or 20 years ago, we never heard of many of the common occupations that people pursue today. The one thing of which we can be certain is that change will continue."

Only one school board member, Grace Wright, served through the decade. Other members now are Walter Garabrant, president; W. C. Boswell, vice

president; Clinton Cooke and Joseph Arnold.

Assistant superintendents of the district are Dr. Albert N. Posner, education; S. E. Waldrip, business; and Dr. Louis Kaplan, special services.

Several schools have been named for past board members—Dr. Howard Wood, Evelyn Carr, and the late Carl Steele. One school is named after industrialist Philip S. Magruder.

Generally schools are named for their areas or some outstanding feature of them. Otherwise, names of historical figures or persons who have served education are chosen.

City Effective Buying Income \$178,565,000 a Year Ago

Net effective income in Torrance amounted to \$178,565,000 during 1958, the Chamber of Commerce revealed.

Buying income is defined as what consumer units have left to spend for all items after taxes. The buying income of Torrance residents in 1958 rose to an \$8,728,000 increase over the previous year.

It was 0.581% of the nation's total and placed in the 16th spot in California, and 167th nationally in the category, Dick Fitzgerald, Chamber of Commerce manager, said.

"This figure indicates local residents have a higher income capacity than the national average, since Torrance's 0.566% of the nation's population is taking home .0581% of the Net Effective Buying Income.

The per capita buying income in Torrance was \$1804 during 1958 with an average of \$6332 per household and \$5798 per consumer spending unit.

Fitzgerald said: "It is easily recognized that a good percentage (8.4) of the households have an annual income of more than \$10,000 and that this group controls 26.4% of the city's effective buying income. The largest percentage of the households (40.6) are in the \$4000-\$6999 class, and this group makes the largest amount (36.9%)."

Local salary earners brought home considerably more money during 1958, 2% in the \$7000-\$9999 range and .1% in the over \$10,000 range indicates. "Sales management has worked out several indices to determine

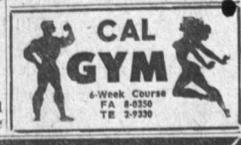
the buying power and the comparative economic status of various cities and the nation as a whole.

"These indices are designed to assist business and advertising firms in locating communities where the economic situation is more likely to produce the desired results. The Chamber office maintains complete records of all California cities in all the mentioned indices (population, retail sales by nine categories, etc). These records are available to our membership since space prohibits their display in the report."

William Gibson for Delegate

William G. Gibson of 4438 Newton St., president of Local 9506, Communications Workers, was one of a group of nearly 100 representatives attending the annual Liberal Arts for Labor conference at Lake Arrowhead.

The conference was sponsored by the University Extension department of Liberal Arts at UCLA and the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, and held February 19-21 at the University's residence Conference Center at Arrowhead.



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Rome Cable Co. Now Makes Less Costly Aluminum Conduit

Improved service to the electrical industry is now assured with purchase of the Rome Cable Corp. by the Aluminum Co. of America.

The effect of the consolidation has been to diversify the activities of Rome Cable's Torrance plant, which employs 200.

Situated at 1739 West 218th St., the facility previously produced tubing and electrical conduit of steel.

Although it was available for some time, aluminum conduit was limited to special installations because of its higher price. Recent months have seen the cost reduce to the level where it is competitive with steel. The result is that aluminum conduit is the fastest-growing product in the electrical industry.

Glenn Koger, manager and vice-president for Rome Cable's

Torrance plant, was named Citizen of the Year in March, 1959, for his all-round community leadership in Torrance during 1958.

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